

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MARCH 17, 2011 – 12:15 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 3

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Pappas, Dowling, Mathanool
Staff: Barbara Strother
Other: Councilor Bill Johnson, Environmental Planner Deb Jones, Purchasing Agent John Piacenza

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2011 AND MARCH 7, 2011 SPECIAL MEETING

MOTION: To approve the February 17, 2011 and March 7, 2011 Special Meeting Minutes as written

Motion made by Mathanool, seconded by Pappas, so voted unanimously

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Strategic Planning Session for 2011 – Follow Up

Peter Pappas is following up working on a tour of the Avery Point incubator facility for the April meeting. He will also follow up on having the campus director attend a future EDC meeting.

2. Local Vendor Preference Position Draft

John Piacenza, Purchasing Agent, reported that he polled some other communities regarding their purchasing policies and he received feedback from a few that they have been able to utilize a local vendor preference option to the benefit of a local company, but on only a few occasions. Mr. Piacenza also noted that the percentage those polled use to keep the local businesses in contention is 4-5% over the non-local low bid. As far as a definition of local businesses, it is best if they have an actual physical presence in the community (not just that they are a significant tax payer), and that they are current on their tax payments. Peter Pappas reviewed the draft Local Vendor Preference Position document, and after several suggestions/comments were made, Mr. Pappas offered to update the document.

Discussion followed on how this should procedurally move forward. It was recommended that a referral request be sent to the Town Manager, which would lead to a discussion with the Town Council. Ultimately for this to take place, the Town Council would need to pass a resolution to add a local vendor preference to the Town's Purchasing Manual.

MOTION: The Economic Development Commission supports pursuing a Groton local vendor preference with the Town Council.

Motion made by Dowling, seconded by Mathanool and so voted unanimously.

3. Staff/Commission Member Reports and Updates

Zoning Commission Referrals

Staff noted that a Zoning Commission referral has been received for 2 Special Permit applications and the public hearing on these applications is on April 6th, prior to the next EDC meeting. After discussion the following action was taken:

MOTION: To add the Zoning Commission referrals for Special Permit #319 and Special Permit #320 to the EDC agenda

Motion made by Dowling, seconded by Mathanool and so voted unanimously.

Deb Jones, Environmental Planner, provided overviews and plans for both of the Special Permit applications. Following discussion, the following actions were taken:

Special Permit #319, 1073 Buddington Road (New England Cycle Works, Applicant)

MOTION: The Economic Development Commission supports the proposed improvements to this site which will allow for expansion of this local business into a shopping center that has been underutilized for some time. The EDC understands that the applicant will be complying with the remaining development standards in the WRPD.

Motion made by Pappas, seconded by Dowling, and so voted unanimously.

Special Permit #320, 13 Water Street, Mystic (85th Day Restaurant, Applicant)

MOTION: The Economic Development Commission supports the proposed alterations and intensification to a standard restaurant at 13 Water Street. The Commission is aware that this location has housed several businesses over the past 20 +/- years, and is hopeful that this new configuration will assist in creating a viable, long time business. The Commission understands that other local review and approvals will be required.

Motion made by Dowling, seconded by Mathanool and so voted unanimously.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Susan Dowling, Secretary
Economic Development Commission

Prepared by Barbara Strother
Economic Development Specialist